

The Reading- Writing Poster Pack



by Steve Peha



Good Writing



Has all of these traits...

✓ **Ideas** that are interesting and important.



✓ Main Idea ✓ Details ✓ "Showing" ✓ Purpose ✓ Surprises

✓ **Organization** that is logical and effective.



✓ Leads ✓ Endings ✓ Sequencing ✓ Pacing ✓ Transitions

✓ **Voice** that is individual and appropriate.



✓ Topic ✓ Feelings ✓ Individuality ✓ Personality ✓ Appropriateness

✓ **Word Choice** that is specific and memorable.



✓ Verbs ✓ Modifiers ✓ Memorable ✓ Accurate ✓ Appropriate

✓ **Sentence Fluency** that is smooth and musical.



✓ Beginnings ✓ Length ✓ Expression ✓ Effects ✓ Structure

✓ **Conventions** that are correct and communicative.



✓ Punctuation ✓ Capitalization ✓ Paragraphing ✓ Spelling ✓ Grammar

Good Writing

Has all of these traits...

Interesting **IDEAS** readers like.

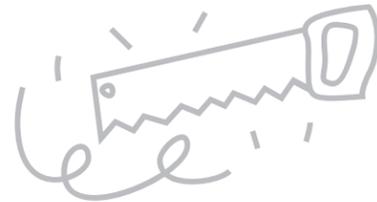
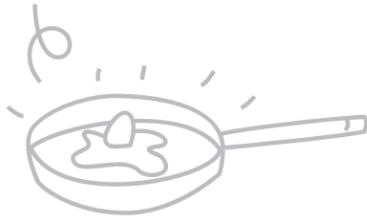
ORGANIZATION you can follow.

My own personal **VOICE**.

WORD CHOICE that says what I mean.

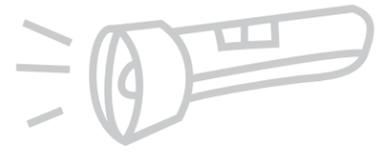
SENTENCE FLUENCY that makes it fun to read out loud.

Correct **CONVENTIONS** everyone can read.





Interesting & Important **Ideas**



An important main idea.



What's the one most important thing the author wants the audience to know? Why is it important to the author? Why is it important to the audience?



Interesting details.



Which details are the most interesting? How do they help the audience understand the main idea?



“Showing,” not just telling.



Where does the author use “showing” details? How does the “showing” help to improve the audience’s understanding?



A clear and meaningful purpose.



Why did the writer write this? Why is this a good reason to write something? What does the author want the audience to think and/or do?



Something unusual or surprising that works.



What is surprising or unusual about the writing? How does this differ from other things you’ve read?



Fun & Interesting!
Ideas

You might learn something new!



My writing has an **important message.**



The one most important thing I want my audience to know is...



I included lots of **interesting details.**



The most interesting thing about my topic is...



I wrote this **for a good reason.**

I wrote this because...





Logical & Effective

Organization



Catches the **audience's attention** at the start.



How does the beginning catch the audience's attention? Why would the audience want to read more?



Feels **finished** at the end; makes the audience **think**.



How does the ending make the piece feel finished? What does it make the audience think about?



Arranged in the **best order**.

Can you easily identify the different parts of the piece? Does each part follow logically from the next? Is the sequencing effective and entertaining?



Spends the **right amount of time** on each part.



Why does the author spend more time in some parts than in others? Are there places where the author moves ahead too quickly or hangs on too long?



Easy to follow from part to part.



How does the author move from part to part? How do these transitions work?



Easy to Follow...

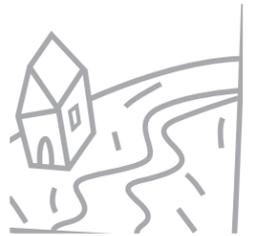
Organization

...From Start to Finish



My beginning will make you want to **find out more** about my piece.

You'll be interested in my piece because...



My ending will make you think about **something important**.

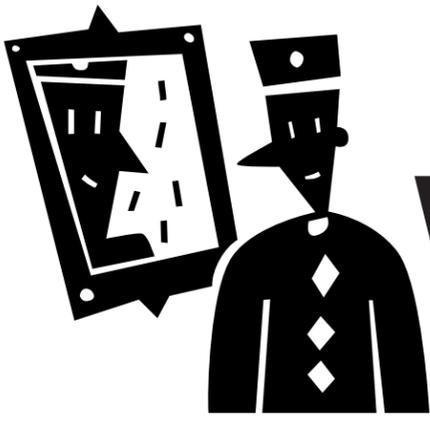
You should remember my piece because...



I put everything in the **best order**.

The most important part of my piece is...





Individual & Appropriate **Voice**



💖 The author **cares** about the **topic**.

How can you tell that the author cares about the topic? Where can you find evidence of strong opinions?

💖 Strong **feelings**; honest statements.

Where are the author's strongest statements? How can you tell that the author is saying what he or she really thinks?



💖 **Individual**, authentic, and original.

Does this writing feel as though it could only have been written by one person? Does the writing sound like it was written by a real person? How original is it?

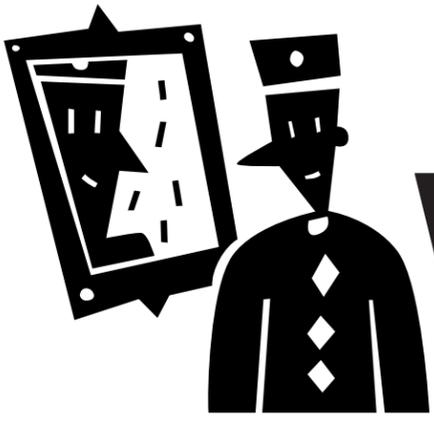
💖 Displays a definite and well developed **personality**.



How would you describe the author's personality in this writing? What examples from the text tell you you're right?

💖 **Appropriate** tone for purpose and audience.

Is the writer using an appropriate tone for this situation? How can you tell? Which parts, if any, seem inappropriate?



My topic! My feelings! My choice! **Voice**



I **like** this piece, and **my audience will like it, too!**



I like this piece because...



I **really care** about my topic.

I wanted to write about this topic because...



You can tell **exactly** how I **feel.**

The feelings I have about this topic are...





Specific & Memorable

Word Choice



Strong verbs that tell how actions are performed.

Where has the author used strong verbs? What makes them effective?



Adjectives and adverbs that make things **specific**.

Where has the author used adjectives and adverbs to make the writing more specific? How does this improve the reader's understanding?



Words and phrases you can **remember**.



Which words and phrases do you remember? Why are they so memorable?



Words and phrases used **accurately** and **effectively**.

Is the writer's usage accurate? Where has the author used unusual words effectively? Where has the author used common words in new ways?



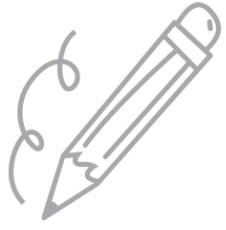
Appropriate language for **purpose** and **audience**.

Is the language appropriate? Are there any words or phrases that are too casual, too formal, too hard to understand, or possibly offensive?



The best way to say it!

Word Choice



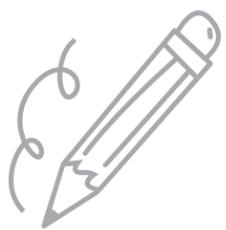
I used words that **I know and understand.**

The best words in my piece are...



I used some interesting **words that you'll remember.**

You'll remember these words because...



I used **just the right words** to say exactly what I wanted to say.

I chose these words because...





Smooth and Expressive

Sentence

Musical

Fluency



Variety in sentence **beginnings.**

What are some of the different ways the author begins sentences? Do you notice any patterns? Does the author ever begin two or three consecutive sentences in the same way?



Variety in sentence **length and structure.**

Does the author vary the length and structure of his or her sentences? Do you notice any patterns? Does the author use the same length or structure in two or three consecutive sentences? What sentence structures does the author use most often?



Easy to read **expressively; sounds great read aloud.**

What are the most expressive parts? What is it about how they sound that makes them so much fun to read out loud?



Rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, and other **“sound” effects.**

Where has the author used rhythm, rhyme, alliteration or other effects? How does this improve the piece?



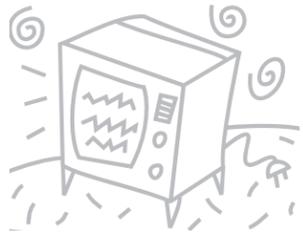
Sentences **structured** so they are **easy** to understand.

How does the author use connecting words and punctuation marks to make sentences easy to understand? How does the order of sentence parts make the writing easy to understand?



Fun to read out loud!

Sentence Fluency



I wrote my piece in **sentences.**



The best sounding sentence in my piece is...



I used **words that sound cool** when you read them together.



The coolest sounding words in my piece are...



My writing **sounds good** when I read it **out loud.**

My piece is fun to read because...



Correct & Communicative Conventions



“Outside” punctuation.



Has the author used periods, question marks, and exclamation marks in ways that make sense to the audience? Is it easy to tell where ideas end and begin?



“Inside” punctuation.



Does the author’s use of commas, colons, dashes, parentheses, and semicolons make sense to the audience? How does the author’s use of these marks help make sentences with many parts easier to understand?



Capitalization.

Has the author used capital letters in ways that make sense to the audience? Is it easy to tell where new ideas begin? Has the author capitalized the word “I”, as well as names, places, and things that are one of a kind?



Paragraphing.



Has the author grouped related sentences into paragraphs in ways that make sense to the audience? Has the author started a new paragraph each time a new person starts speaking? Has the author indented or skipped a line to show where new paragraphs start?



Spelling.



If the writing has spelling mistakes, do these errors make the piece difficult to read and understand? How does the author’s spelling affect the way the audience feels about the writing and the person who wrote it?



Everyone Can Read It!

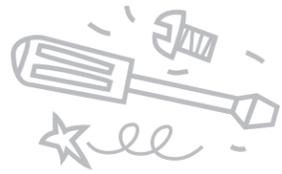
Conventions



I **started** my sentences
with **capitals** and put
periods at the end.



The conventions
I know are...



I used capitals for the
word **“I”** and the names
of **people** and **places**.

The conventions
I am learning are...



I did my best to **spell**
each word **correctly**.

You can tell
I edited my piece because...

The 5 Big Questions

for talking about your writing, the writing of others, and the books you read.

① What makes this writing **good**?



Which parts do you like? Why do you like those parts? Are parts of this writing better than other writing you've read? How do you know? Use the language of your classroom criteria to explain how you feel.

② What would make this writing **better**?



Which parts are not as good as they could be? Why don't you like them? What changes could the author make that would help you understand and enjoy the writing more? How would those changes make the writing better? Use the language of your classroom criteria to explain how you feel.

③ What's the **one** most important **thing** the writer wants you to know?

Is there one clear message the writer wants you to remember? What is it? How do you know? What details tell you you're right? This "one most important thing" is the writer's main idea. Sometimes, it often feels like a moral or a lesson the writer wants you to learn.

④ Why did the writer write **this piece**?



What was the author's purpose in writing this piece? Writers write for a reason. Writing to entertain or to inform is great; all good writing must be entertaining and informative. But there has to be a deeper purpose. What does the writer want you to think and/or do after you've finished the piece? Why would it be valuable or meaningful for someone to read this?

⑤ What does the **audience** need to **know**?



Who is this writer writing for? What information does the audience need to enjoy and understand this piece? What questions do they have? What would they like to know more about? What part of the piece will interest them most? How does the author's voice, and the details the author decides to include, show that he or she is thinking about the audience?

The 5 Facts of Fiction

A fun way to write great fiction,
and a great way to have fun reading it!

① Fiction is all about **character**.



Who is your main character? What does your character look like? Can you describe your character's personality? How did your character get to be this way? The more you know about your character, the better your story will be.

② Fiction is all about **what your character wants**.



What does your character want more than anything else? Why does your character want it? Some characters want a lot, some want a little. It doesn't really matter as long as it's VERY IMPORTANT to your character. The more important it is, the more your character will do to get it, and the more interesting your story will be.

③ Fiction is all about how your character **gets or does not get** what he or she **wants**.



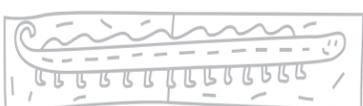
Is your character successful? Or does your character's quest end in failure? Either way, you can have a great story. The trick is to describe HOW your character succeeds or fails. What obstacles does your character encounter? What solutions can your character craft to meet the challenges of your story?

④ Fiction is all about **how your character changes** as a result of getting or not getting what he or she wants.



How does your character change as a result of what has happened? What was your character like at the beginning? What is your character like at the end? What has your character learned? What will the audience learn from reading the story?

⑤ Fiction is all about a **world that you create**.



How do you create a world? What kinds of people, places, and things does a world need? What successes, disasters, and conflicts does a world have? What are the good things in a world? What are the bad things? Remember: your story can be made up, but it must BE TRUE TO YOUR WORLD!



What's a Good Idea?



⚡ Something you have **strong feelings** about.

What are those feelings? How will you communicate those feelings to your reader? Is there a key moment or a particularly important detail you want to emphasize so your reader will understand EXACTLY how you feel?

⚡ Something you **know a lot** about.

What are the main things you want to cover? What's the most important part of your piece? What's the one thing you want your audience to know about your topic?

⚡ Something you can **describe in great detail.**



What are some of the details of your topic? Why are these details important? How do these details help the reader understand your message?

⚡ Something your **audience** will be **interested in.**



Who is your audience? Why will they be interested in your topic? What will interest them most?

⚡ Something your **audience** will feel was **worth reading.**

What will your audience get from reading your piece? Will your audience learn something new? What will make your audience want to follow your piece all the way to the end?



Don't Correct...



Inspect the writing closely.



Read thoughtfully and thoroughly.



Detect those parts that work and those that don't.

What do you like? What do you think could be improved? Use the language of your classroom criteria to explain how you feel.



Reflect on why some parts work and others don't.

Why do you like certain parts? How would improving other parts make the writing better? Use the language of your classroom criteria to explain how you feel.



Connect your reactions to the writer's intent.

What is the writer's purpose? Why did the writer choose to write this particular piece? Who is the writer's audience? What's the ONE THING the writer wants you to know?



Inject your own opinions.

Be honest. Communicate using the language of your classroom criteria so that everyone can understand you. REMEMBER: This is just YOUR OPINION; it's not the final word.



Respect the writer's reactions.

Listen closely to what the writer has to say about your comments. The writer does NOT have to make the changes you suggest.



Perfect communication between reader and writer.

Do you really understand each other? Make sure you're both using the language of your classroom criteria. Review the writer's purpose, audience, and message.



Expect to repeat the process...

*...as long as the WRITER wants to continue. OR...
...until the reader UNDERSTANDS the writer's message.*

Be a READER, not a TEACHER!

Sound it Out

A Great Way to Spell Words You Don't Know!



Say it slowly.

Say it out loud.

Listen carefully in the middle of the word.

Really stretch the word out.

Keep going

until

you've

written

at

least

one

letter

for

each

sound

you

hear!



Hold the sound.

Hold out the next sound.

Try to hear the sound all by itself.



Find the letter.

Think of the letter or letters that make that sound.



Write it down.

Write the letters as soon as you guess them.

Don't try to spell the whole word in your head!

IF you're not 100% sure it's right, and you don't know how to fix it, draw a line under it and GO ON TO THE NEXT WORD. After your piece is finished, you can correct your spelling during the EDITING STAGE of the WRITING PROCESS.

1) Show someone the words you didn't know.

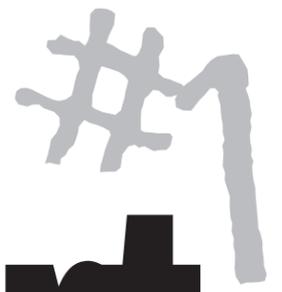
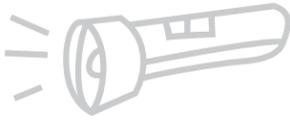
2) Ask them to correct it for you.

3) Write it correctly on your published copy.

We went to DizneInd.

✓ ✓s ✓ey ✓a ✓
DizneInd

We went to Disneyland.



Topic T-Chart

Perfect topics every time!



Like



Hate

Pizza

Homework

Baseball

Vegetables



Cats



Rainy Days

Writing

Chores



Movies

Being Sick



Typical-Unusual

Typical life experiences and unusual life experiences.



Fun-Have To



Things you do for fun and things you do because you have to.



Regret-Proud Of



Things you regret and things you're proud of.



What-Why-How

Great support for your opinions!

What

Why

How

(Opinion)

My dog is the most amazing pet in the whole world.

(Reasons)

He does my algebra homework for me.

(Evidence)

He's great in math but sometimes he needs help holding the pencil.



He's helping me pay my way to college.

He just signed a deal with CNN for his own talk show: "A Dog's Eye View."



What do you think?

This is your opinion. Make it a complete sentence.

Why do you think it?

These are the reasons for your opinion. Have at least 4 of 5.

How do you know?

These are your pieces of evidence, your examples, your proof.



Idea-Details

Add details to your writing instantly!

Idea



Details

At the park we play frisbee. He catches it in his mouth and brings it back.



He runs really fast.

He jumps up in the air.

He never misses.



People can't believe how good he is.

He can jump about five feet high.

He'll only catch it if I throw it.



Make a Paragraph

"Sometimes, my dog and I go up to the park to play frisbee. As soon as I throw it, he runs as fast as he can to catch it. He jumps high in the air and catches it in his teeth. He can jump about five feet high. People can't believe how good he is because he almost never misses. But he'll only catch it if I throw it."





#4



Tell-Show

Add descriptive detail to your writing!

Tell

Show

My dog runs as fast as he can and jumps in the air.

As I take out the frisbee, he starts to wag his tail. As soon as I let it fly, he tears after it as fast as he can. Just when I think he's not going to get it, he leaps into the air, stretches out his neck, and snags it between his teeth like an animal capturing its prey.



Think about your **telling** details.



Focus and concentrate on this one image.



Picture the scene in your **mind**.

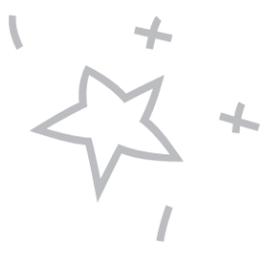


Notice the attributes of each thing you see.



Describe what you **see** in the picture.

Treat each thing like a character in the story.



#5

Transition- Action-Details

Put anything into a logical sequence.

Transition

Action

Details

About a month ago,



My dog and I went to Andrews Park to play frisbee.

The wind was really blowing.



I ran him around for a while, and then

I took out the frisbee, threw it hard, and it took off over the trees.

I tried to stop my dog from going after it, but it was too late.



The frisbee went over the trees and down a steep hill.

I was worried my dog might get hurt.



A few minutes later,



My dog came running back with the frisbee.

He was really dirty. It looked like he'd been in the mud.

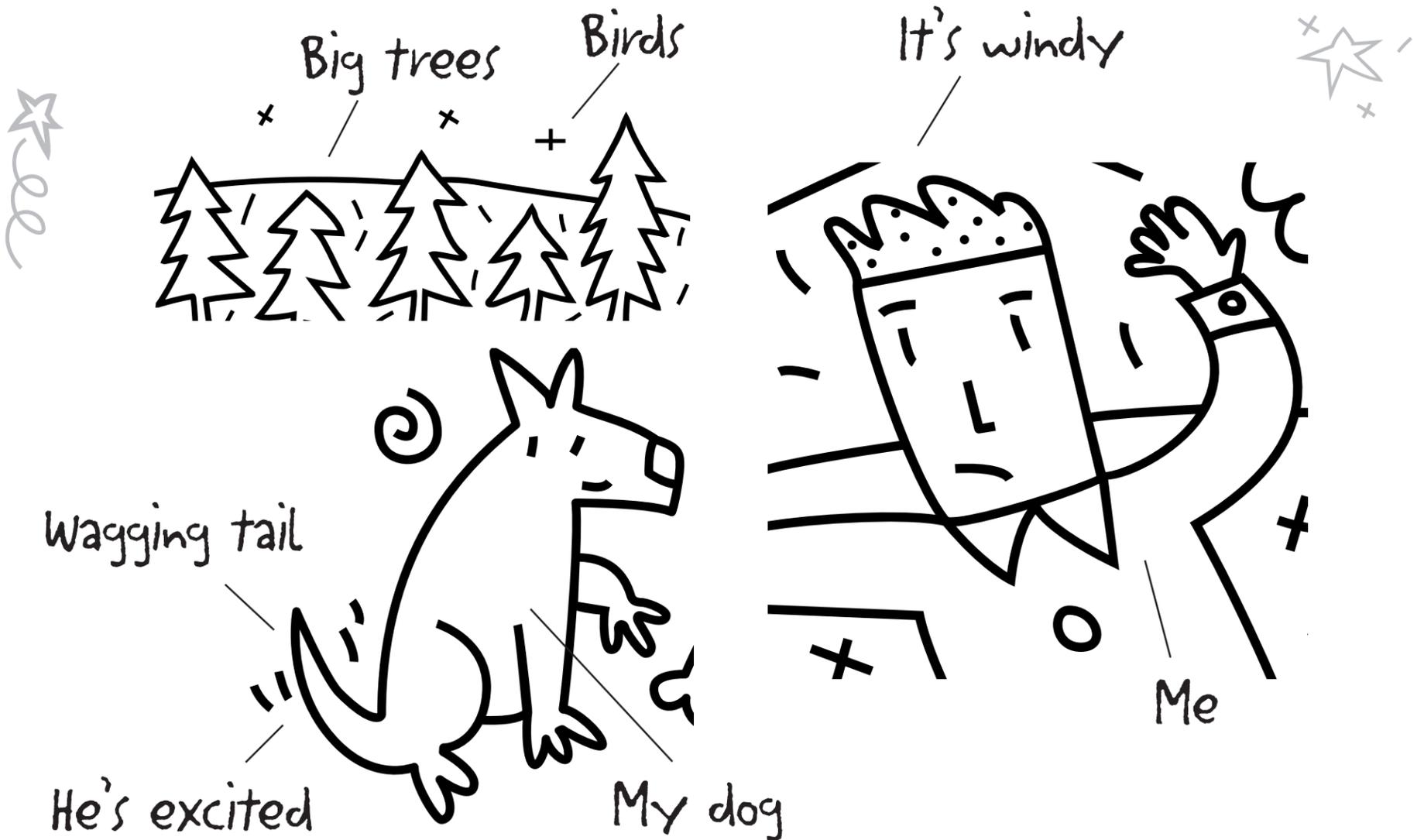




#6

Draw- Label-Caption

Capture a scene with many details!



I'm playing frisbee with my dog at Andrews Park.

This is a **sketch**, not finished artwork.

Work quickly. Include as many details as you can.

Label everything you can think of.

Use a single word or a short phrase. Identify everything.

Each label is a **detail** you can write about.

The more details you have, the better your piece will be.



Action- Feelings-Setting

Create an effective description of any scene!



Action: I've just thrown the frisbee, and my dog is chasing after it.

Feelings: I'm excited but also scared. He's going to run off into the trees where he might get hurt.

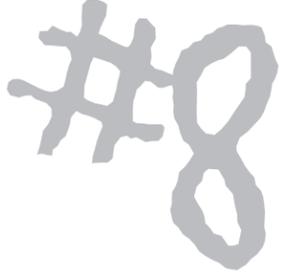
Setting: We're up at Andrews Park. It's really windy and cold. There aren't many people around.

"It was cold and windy that day at Andrews Park, and there weren't very many people around. I threw the frisbee hard into the wind and it just took off like I'd never seen before. Immediately, my dog started chasing after it. And as I saw it sail off over the trees, I started to get worried that he might get hurt if he tried to catch it."



Content- Purpose-Audience

One strategy for all kinds of writing!



Main Idea



What's the one most important thing you want your audience to know?

Key Details



What does your audience need to know to understand your main idea?

Think



What do you want your audience to think after they're finished?

Do

What do you want your audience to do after they're finished?



People

What specific person or group of people are you writing this for?



Questions

What does your audience want to know about your topic?

